

See *FIRST*, Understand *FIRST*, Act *FIRST*

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First Army takes over mobilization nationwide

First U.S. Army's training mission expanded Jan. 16 to include training, readiness oversight and mobilization for U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard units throughout the continental United States and two U.S. territories.

The transition of the expanded geographic mission began in mid-December with the transfer of authority between First Army and Fifth Army for the Western United States occurring Monday.

Part of Army Transformation

The Army's transformation necessitated restructuring the roles and missions of First Army and Fifth Army, officials said, to support reserve-component modularity and the Army Force Generation process known as ARFORGEN.

United States Army Forces Command is establishing First U.S. Army/ Training and Readiness Oversight, and Mobilization Command (Provisional) as the multi-component headquarters responsible for the training and readiness oversight of reserve-component forces throughout the ARFORGEN process.

First U.S. Army will also be responsible for the mobilization of all reserve-component conventional forces in the continental United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Honoré: No gaps to be accepted

Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, commanding general of First U.S. Army, said that the transition must be accomplished "with no gaps or degradation in training of the Army National Guard and Reserve units at any mobilization station."

First U.S. Army's expanded mission supports ongoing transformation efforts as the Army restructures its force into modular units. This restructuring changes the current division-based force into a brigade-based force.

The new modular combat and support units are more self-sufficient, more readily deployable, and easily combined with other Army and Joint forces, officials said. They said the purpose of Army Force Generation is to provide a continuous output of expeditionary, campaign-quality forces capable of full-spectrum operations.

Previously, First Army trained, mobilized and deployed U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard units in the eastern United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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Commander's Corner



Battle drill: React to media contact

Below are Lt. Gen. Honoré's guidelines for contact with members of the media

- Don't lie. Tell the truth.
- If you don't want to hear it or read it, don't say it or do it.
- Give media access 0500-2400. Set aside at least 20-30 minutes a day for interviews. Be prepared for action on contact.
- Purpose: To provide information to the public. The American people have a right to know.
- Talk about what you KNOW, not about what you THINK.
- Don't answer "How do you feel about...?" questions. Focus on mission. Think about answers.
- Interject humor with caution. Watch timing based on situation.
- It's about "US" not "ME."
- The Army is an outdoor sport. Do interviews outside in an operational environment.
- Have your PAO keep you posted on your boss's and your boss's boss's quotes.
- Figure out your daily top 3 priorities of work and talk about them.
- Get satellite radio and listen to national news a few times a day.
- Don't be part of a public investigation. Don't let reporters act like prosecutors.
- Build business relationships with reporters. Drink coffee, eat with them, let them get to know you.
- Be yourself.
- Don't read any damn prepared remarks.
- Don't do politics – focus on your mission. Don't compliment or criticize political leaders.
- Use your staff to see first, understand first, act first.



Common Access Card Cryptographic Logon

The U.S. Army began implementing last month the Common Access Card Cryptographic Logon which requires a special identification card, known as a CAC, and a personal identification number to log on to the Army's unclassified network. By March, approximately 10,000 Army headquarters users are expected to be CAC-cryptographic-logon compliant. By summer, implementation should be Army-wide.

"Protecting identity is critical as the Army moves forward to deliver a joint net-centric, information enterprise," said Lt. Gen. Steven W. Boutelle, Chief Information Officer/G-6 (CIO/G-6).

"One of the greatest vulnerabilities of our networks is posed by weak user names and passwords," Boutelle said. "Spyware or keystroke tracking software can steal your username and password, and even your personal identification number or PIN. It cannot steal your CAC. The Army's goal is to eliminate the use of username and password."

CAC logon allows you to be authenticated with something you know—your PIN, and something you have—a CAC. CAC is a type of smart card with electronic information about an owner and digital public key infrastructure (PKI) certificates that insure identity.

Part of the CIO/G-6 mission is to protect and defend the Army systems, networks and information. Key to that mission is reducing vulnerability of the unclassified network through security measures such as card-cryptographic logon. Common Access Card Cryptographic Logon also meets the directives on identity protection published by the Army Vice Chief of Staff in 2005 and the President in 2004 (Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12).

Recently, DoD's Joint Task Force Global Network Operations started accelerating PKI implementation throughout DoD.

In the near future, the Army's intranet Army Knowledge Online will also require CAC logon. The Army is currently testing and vetting the capability to use CAC logon outside Army networks.

Command Sergeant Major Speaks



Marvin L. Hill
Command Sergeant Major
First U.S. Army

Warrior Ethos affects all

War-ri-or *n.* - One who is engaged aggressively or energetically in an activity, cause, or conflict.

E-thos *n.* - The distinguishing character, sentiment, moral nature or guiding beliefs of a person or institution.

No matter the rank, the job, or the unit, all Soldiers must be Warriors.

The Warrior Ethos is a codification of the principles that make a Soldier and is designed to provide a common foundation to describe the American Soldier's total commitment to victory in peace and war. It is and will continue to be the moral and ethical soul of the Army.

Flexible, adaptive, and competent Soldiers infused with the Army's Warrior Culture fight wars and win the peace. Soldiers are trained in many different fields, but they must be first and foremost elite combatants prepared to defend themselves, their fellows, and their nation.

There is no such place as "behind the lines" any more. Our enemies will strike at us whenever and wherever they can. And we must be prepared to meet them and destroy them. And we will accomplish this mission by adhering to the Warrior Ethos:

I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.

Out of every 100 men, 10 shouldn't even be there, 80 are just targets, nine are the real fighters, and we are lucky to have them, for they make the battle. Ah, but the one, one is a warrior and he will bring the others back. — Heraclitus, 5 B.C.

Army Updates Management of Colonels

As the Army transforms to meet new challenges, it is also transforming the personnel management of senior military officers. In January 2006, the Army formed a single organization known as Senior Leader Development (SLD) to manage colonels and general officers.

The new organization is formed around two existing organizations: General Officer Management Office (GOMO) that assists Army leadership with developing, assigning, and managing Army general officers, and Human Resources Command's Colonels Division. The result is that both colonels and promotable lieutenant colonels will be added to the group of senior military leaders managed directly by the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army.

"Senior Leader Development provides us with a unique opportunity to fully leverage and better apportion the inherent talents, experiences, and leadership skills of a combined force of senior leaders," said Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army. "The national security environment demands more from our senior military leaders than ever before."

Senior officers will work with the new organization to synchronize their development plans with Army requirements in a colonel position or with anticipation in order to better focus their continuing contributions to the nation. According to the forthcoming director, Col. Mike Harris, "While fewer than 3 percent of Army colonels are selected for promotion to brigadier general each year, 100 percent of them will continue to contribute to the defense of our nation. Therefore, it is important that the Army continue to develop its colonels, whether for utilization towards a general officer position."

SLD provides the Army with a unique opportunity to take advantage of a combined force of Army senior leaders. By further developing and closely managing senior officers "together at the top" the Army is sending a clear message to its colonels that they are a valued element of the Army's strategic leadership.

For more information about the Senior Leader Development office please contact Lt. Col Pamela Hart at (703) 697-5662 or Maj. Elizabeth Robbins at (703) 697-5343.

Army extends health assessment for Soldiers

On 23 January 2006 Secretary of the Army, Dr. Francis J. Harvey and the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Peter J. Schoomaker authorized a new health screening program, "Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA)" which is designed to address deployment related physical and mental health needs of Soldiers three to six months after returning from deployment. After nine months of pilot programs the Army is now implementing the Army PDHRA program which is one component of the Defense Department's ongoing efforts to safeguard the health of all military personnel returning from deployment including Active, Reserve and National Guard.

This unprecedented Army health assessment program will address the deployment related physical and mental health needs of our Soldiers. Research has shown that deployment health concerns often evolve over time, commanders must facilitate and encourage returning Soldiers to visit with health care providers to ensure that all their deployment-related health concerns are addressed as soon as practically possible.

According to General Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army, "This is a commander's program. We are encouraging our commanders to ensure complete redeployment processing of the Soldiers under their command and to help each individual make a smooth post-deployment transition."

Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley explained the health reassessment this way, "When our units return from operations around the world, their equipment is rechecked and reset. We see this health screening as an expansion of the process that looks at resetting the fighting force – resetting and maintaining the wellness and health of Soldiers."

"It's important to remember that this is an overall health reassessment" Kiley said, "not just a mental health reassessment. Many of these Soldiers have been working very hard in combat operations throughout the world. They come back, get some time to rest and recover, and then they begin to realize that some of the things – backaches or skin rashes, for example – have not gone away. This screening process gives them an opportunity to come back to us, and for us to provide them the follow-on health care they need."

Army testing unmanned Stryker convoys

By Larry Edmond

Engineers conducting show-and-tell with a 20-ton robot on the last day of two weeks of trials on Fort Gordon were cautiously optimistic.

Karl Murphy, a software engineer from Robotic Research, said there was a new principle of "Murphy's Law" at work on the test field Feb. 10.

"One of my professors reminded us that we have 'sight-ons' present whenever an experiment is being viewed," Murphy said. "The more 'sight-ons' you have, the greater is the potential for something to go wrong."

Tongue in cheek, he continued explaining that sight-on fields increase with the rank and reach of individuals viewing a test. With national, regional and local media rolling cameras, the "sight-on" field was very high that Friday.

The demonstration at Fort Gordon was a part of a much larger program of tests being conducted by the Robotics Technology Integration Team from the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research and Development Engineer Center, General Dynamics Corporation and its sub-contractors.

Jeff Jaczkowski, TARDEC electrical engineer and manager for this Robotic Follower Advanced Technology Demonstrator project, explained what the testing was about and why Fort Gordon was chosen.

Pointing to the two Stryker Infantry Carrier vehicles idling behind him at their base camp on Range 37, Jaczkowski said these vehicles are part of a larger program set to bring vehicle electronics-vetronics technology integration and robotic systems to the force.

The system in testing at Fort Gordon is the robotic follower program. This program seeks to develop robots that can conduct convoy operations. One of the vehicles is called the CAT - short for crew integration and automation test bed. It serves as the manned leader vehicle.

The other vehicle serves as an unmanned follower in a convoy.

"We have done a circuit of testing that started in 2003," Jaczkowski said. "We have done a number of different environments, including Fort Bliss, Texas, that has a primarily sand/desert environment. We did Fort Knox, Ky., where there is more cross-country terrain. There was Fort Indiantown Gap and Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania.

See Unmanned Stryker, p. 7

Army's Veteran Bomb-Disposal Robot Now 'Packs Heat'

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

A modified version of an Army robot that's used to thwart roadside bombs in Afghanistan and Iraq now packs a punch of its own.

The 3-foot-tall robot, known by the acronym SWORDS (Special Weapons Observation Remote Direct-Action System), can be seen at the Washington Auto Show at the Washington Convention Center here. The show started today and runs through Jan. 29. The robot is part of an Army exhibit.

The remote-controlled machine at the auto show is fitted with an M-249 machine gun and can travel up to 5 mph on its two tank-like tracks, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Mero, an explosive ordnance disposal noncommissioned officer who has served in Iraq. The gun-toting machine is derived from the battery-powered Talon robot, which has provided stalwart service alongside U.S. bomb-disposal squads in Afghanistan and Iraq, Mero said.

"I've used the Talon in Iraq," Mero said, noting the machines are operated via remote control from up to half-a mile away. "You usually use an EOD robot whenever there's an IED based along the side of the road."

The video camera-equipped Talon is used to scout an area in case terrorists decide to detonate the bomb to kill or injure U.S. servicemembers, he said. "It's better than getting a soldier blown up," Mero said. Blast-damaged robots can often be repaired and quickly returned to duty, he said.

Terrorists in Iraq likely will soon confront robots that can fight back, said Mero, who works for the U.S. Army's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

Armed robots like the one at the auto show are being field tested now. Pending successful testing they'll likely be deployed to Iraq sometime this year, he said.

The weapons on the SWORDS robot are fitted onto a universal mounting device, said Asad Khan, a project engineer at ARDEC who accompanied Meros to the auto show. "Right now, what you're seeing is the M-249 machine gun (version)," Khan said. "But, we can (also) use rockets, 40 mm grenade launchers, and the M-240 machine gun, as well as the M-16 rifle."

Weaponized robots equipped with night-vision and other gear could be employed for reconnaissance and other duties, Mero said, noting the SWORDS machine can be rapidly spun around in a complete circle.

Terrorists will likely think twice before engaging machine-gun-packing robots, Mero predicted. "You're not going to try to sneak up on it," Mero said, "and if you shoot at it, it's going to know right where you are."

Fifth Army becomes ARNORTH

First Army also conducted Homeland Defense in support of national objectives as well as providing Department of Defense support of civilian authorities, such as relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

Fifth U.S. Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, has assumed the DSCA responsibility nationwide and will also be known as U.S. Army North, or ARNORTH, under U.S. Northern Command.

Act *FIRST* [Return to Main](#)



Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Mero (right) describes the capabilities of the SWORDS (Special Weapons Observation Remote Direct-Action System) robot to Washington Auto Show attendee Garth Renn Jan. 24. Photo by

Our Army is serving a Nation at war.



Soldiers may earn \$1,000 recruiting referral bonus

Soldiers can now earn \$1,000 for referring their acquaintances to Army recruiters should those referrals result in enlistment.

The referral bonus was authorized by the recently signed National Defense Authorization Act. The NDAA also provides authorization to increase enlistment bonuses for new regular-Army recruits from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and increases reserve-component enlistment bonuses from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

"We thank Congress for their recent legislation to provide bonuses such as these," said Lt. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck, deputy chief of staff, Army G1 (Personnel). "We're pleased with recent trends and believe these incentives will be instrumental in helping us achieve our goals."

Recruiting goal met last 7 months

"I believe the new authorities provided by Congress, such as the \$1,000 per referral bonus, will help continue the positive trend of meeting our recruiting objectives [as we have] for the last seven months in a row," said Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey following a Pentagon press briefing Jan. 18.

Under the referral pilot program, eligible members of both the Army's regular and reserve components may receive the \$1,000 bonus per recruit. Referrals under the program will be made via the Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team, or SMART referral process.

Soldiers may receive the bonus for referring anyone, except a member of their immediate family. Immediate family member is defined as spouse, parent (including step-parent), child (natural, adopted, or step-child), brother, or sister.

No conflicts of interest

Those not eligible to receive a referral bonus include Soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Accessions Command, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Cadet Command, U.S. Army Reserve Command – Retention and Transition Division, National Guard State Recruiting Commands and any other member of the Army serving in a recruiting or retention assignment.

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Anyone is also ineligible for the bonus if their duties could be perceived as creating a conflict of interest, as determined by the secretary of the Army.

Soldiers identified above will be ineligible to receive a referral bonus for three months following a reassignment outside their recruiting and retention duties, officials said, adding this includes Soldiers who have participated in the Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program, Special Recruiter Assistance Program) and Additional Duty Special Work in recruiting or retention duties.

Bonus paid after AIT completed

The bonus will be paid in a lump sum to the referring Soldier once the qualified applicant completes Basic and Advanced Individual Training, known as AIT. There are no retroactive provisions to this pilot program, officials said. They said payments will be made directly to the referring Soldier's military pay account within 45 days after the person that was referred completes AIT.

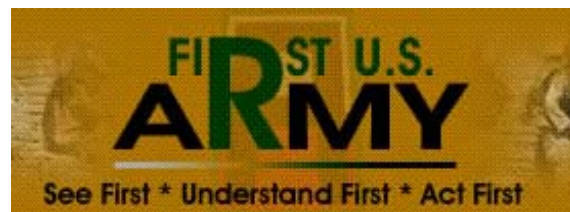
The referring Soldier must either submit the referral through the SMART link or through the U.S. Army Recruiting Command 1-800 line dedicated to this program (see below for both). To receive a bonus, the sponsor (person making the referral) must provide the name of the applicant as a referral using this process, prior to the applicant conducting an appointment with an Army recruiter.

"Soldiers have always provided a vital role in the recruiting process," said Jeff Spara of Army headquarters personnel office. "This program is an excellent way to recognize their contributions."

The NDAA 2006 also increases the maximum enlistment contract from 6 to 8 years and raises the age limit for enlistment from 35 years to 40 years.

For more information on the \$1,000 referral bonus, go to <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart/> or call 1-800-223-3735, ext. 6-0473.

(Editor's note: Alphonso Green and John Reese contributed to this article.)



Unmanned Stryker (Con't)

We are down here at Fort Gordon for the environment in the forested-type setting. We are focusing on road and long-haul convoy missions."

Jaczkowski said Fort Gordon provides an ideal setting with a 10-kilometer loop that has a three-kilometer stretch of dirt road and the rest is paved. The long stretches of isolated roads allow the teams to put their test vehicles through a series of high-speed tests.

"Yesterday we ran a 100-mile test where the lead vehicle was being driven manually and the robot was following," Jaczkowski said. "We did this successfully where the average speed was about 22 miles per hour. You may think that 22 miles per hour is not that fast when operational convoys are going 60 to 70 miles per hour. But you have to take into account that we did 68 right turns.

"You don't take right turns at 50 miles per hour, especially with a 20-ton robot."

On straight stretches, the vehicles routinely speed along at more than 40 mph, Jaczkowski said.

Pointing to the bristling array of sensors on the vehicles, Jaczkowski said these vehicles incorporate second-generation lidar-laser radar, forward-looking infrared sensors, and advanced computers to handle autonomous navigation.

For the autonomous follower, engineers are going beyond Global Positioning Systems to link terrain data from the lead vehicle back to the follower vehicle to augment data the follower vehicle gathers from on-board sensors.

"The idea is to pass electronic bread crumbs from the manned lead vehicle back to the autonomous follower vehicle, and provide high-level proofing of the follower's path so the follower avoids areas that might impede or confuse its autonomous navigation system, while requiring only a minimum of human intervention and control from the lead vehicle," Jaczkowski said.

Jaczkowski characterized all the testing so far as outstanding and gave high marks to the Fort Gordon Battle Lab and range control. "

Jaczkowski is quick to point out that the testing that he is conducting is not about the relatively new Stryker vehicle.

"The Stryker is a fielded system, but the robotic convoy technology sensors that we have on these units are what we are putting through the research and development stage."

The demonstration conducted before the media Feb. 10 showed how adept the robot is in making decisions. The lead vehicle was manually driven along the road through an area where a gate was set, with the robot vehicle following about 100 meters behind.

After the lead vehicle passed, the engineers were planning to pull a cord releasing a gate to block the path. The follower vehicle should be able to detect the gate and plot a path around it before continuing, Jaczkowski said.

True to Murphy's Law and the sight-on rule, the chord attached to the spring release broke as engineer Karl Murphy tugged it to release the gate. Undaunted, Murphy reached down and tripped the release. The gate swung into the path of the following robot.

See Unmanned Stryker, P. 8

First Army (Con't.)

First Army to have East, West HQs

In its new role, First U.S. Army will continue to report directly to FORSCOM, Fort McPherson, Ga., and will have two subordinate multi-component headquarters -- one training division in the western United States and one training division in the East. When established, these two divisions will support Reserve Component training, readiness and mobilization. Additionally, each western state's senior Army advisor to the Army National Guard; the 75th Training Support Division in Houston, Texas; and the 91st Training Support Division at Camp Parks, Calif.; will be reassigned as part of First U.S. Army.

The western divisions will join with the 78th Training Support Division in Edison, N.J.; the 85th Training Support Division in Arlington Heights, Ill.; and the 87th Training Support Division in Birmingham, Ala., already assigned to First Army.

(Editor's note: Information provided by First U.S. Army Public Affairs.)

Schoomaker predicts bigger, busier Army in '06

By Jennifer Downing, Army News Service

The chief of staff of the Army said he expects to see developments with base realignment and closures, an increase in modular brigades and operational force strength, and 20,000 jobs converted from the military to civilian workforce in 2006.

Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker gave an overview of the direction the Army is going for the next year at the annual Institute for Land Warfare Forum Breakfast in Arlington, Va., Jan. 12.

"This year is going to be the busiest year we've ever had," said Schoomaker about the Army as a whole, but he said NATO is expected to take on more responsibility in Afghanistan in the coming year.

Schoomaker said he is confident that forming a more fully resourced Army across the board will improve the Army's mission achievement. A piece of that puzzle is converting jobs at Army installations in the United States to the civilian workforce. By converting those jobs, he said Soldiers would then be able to fill operational spaces overseas.

"The War on Terror is about ideas and changing things that are fundamental," Schoomaker said.

BRAC will also prove to make headlines this year, he said, as officials work with the installations set for realignment or closure and work out the best way to execute the congressional mandate.

While hard issues drive how the Army will evolve in 2006, Schoomaker said the Soldiers he met have made an impact on how he sees the War on Terrorism evolving.

Visiting the troops in theater and traveling to Landstuhl, Germany, confirmed to the chief of staff that troops want to continue the fight. He talked to Soldiers who have been wounded in battle and are anxious to get back in theater.

He also talked about the humanitarian efforts he saw in Pakistan and how the Army is shaping the world and changing perceptions. An example he cited was a toy that became a favorite of the children in Pakistan – a little, plastic Army Chinook – which was "of course made in China," he said.

Schoomaker said he is confident the Army will be able to step up and deliver in the coming year.

Unmanned Stryker (Con't)

With only a few seconds to assess, the robot slowed, and veered around the gate. It then continued on its path, following the lead vehicle. It was a slight glitch and only served to more graphically demonstrate how perceptive the robot is, Jaczkowski said.

In the future, Jaczkowski speculates the current efforts will lead to manned and unmanned convoys.

"There are two avenues that the Army is pursuing. The near-term objective is to automate the function of driving in a convoy vehicle."

Soldiers will remain in the vehicles for now, but by placing a vehicle on auto-pilot, the driver will be able to perform other duties or rest. The long-term objective is to create dedicated unmanned ground vehicles.

In the tests being conducted on Fort Gordon, the lead vehicle develops a path along a route that it transmits to the follower vehicle that can follow the path immediately or weeks later.

"This is the beginning of going from point A to point B autonomously," Jaczkowski said.

He said the payoff will be in saving lives from such routine missions as resupplying forces in environments like Iraq where roadside bombs wreak havoc.

The group will continue testing Feb. 24 to March 10, Jaczkowski said.

(Larry Edmond serves as a staff writer for the Fort Gordon Signal newspaper.)

National Salute to hospitalized Veterans 14 February 2006



Members of Headquarters, First U.S. Army take a group photo with Sahib Pasha. Pasha, a Special Forces veteran of the 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, was born in Palestine in 1947 just before the British partition and the creation of Israel. (First U.S. Army photo/Phil Manson)

First Army Commander visits CJTF Phoenix IV

*By U. S. Army Lt. Col. Gregory Moore
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix Public Affairs*

Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, commanding general of First U. S. Army, recently visited Camp Phoenix where he received an update briefing on the mission of Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Phoenix IV.

As part of a three-day visit to Afghanistan, Honoré met with senior U. S. and Afghan leadership in Kabul, Pol-e-Charki and Khost, toured training facilities in Kabul, and visited reserve component Soldiers at Camp Eggers and Camp Salerno.

Members of Florida National Guard's 53rd Infantry Brigade received their mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss., last year under the close scrutiny of Honoré and his First U. S. Army staff. The 41st Infantry Brigade, which will replace the 53rd in July 2006 will also mobilize at Camp Shelby.

In addition to the task force briefing, Brig. Gen. John M. Perryman, commander of CJTF Phoenix IV, escorted Honoré to a meeting with the commander of the Afghan National Army 201st Corps, as well as a tour of the Command and General Staff Course school run by members of the French Army.

One of the key objectives of the CJTF Phoenix presentation was to emphasize the importance for a comprehensive training plan at the mobilization station for personnel being assigned as embedded trainers with the task force. Approximately 700 Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the 2,100 military personnel assigned to the task force work directly with the Afghan National Army as trainers and mentors.

Honoré had high praise for the members of CJTF Phoenix. "Everywhere I go, people tell me that you are doing a great job," he told Perryman and his staff. "Keep up the good work."

During his visit, Honoré also had the opportunity to compare notes with Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade, who was at Camp Phoenix with members of his staff conducting a Leaders Reconnaissance.



53rd Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. John Adams (left), Brig. Gen. John Perryman, and First Army Commander Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré in Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Greg Moore.

“Munitions at Sea” Guide

The U.S. Army in an effort to promote public safety and to raise public awareness about potential hazards associated with munitions that may be encountered during maritime operations has developed an explosives safety guide, “Munitions at Sea, a Guide for Commercial Maritime Industries.”

This guide advises people who work in U.S. maritime industries of the potential explosive hazards associated with munitions inadvertently recovered from the sea and the actions that should be taken to help ensure safety.

Prior to 1972, the military sea disposed of excess, obsolete or unserviceable munitions en route to port or as part of planned disposals. In the 1970s, the U.S. military stopped sea disposal of munitions and now only allows such disposals during an on-board ship emergency.

The guide, coordinated with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board, is one of a series of guides the Army is developing as part of its Unexploded Ordnance Safety Education Program. The Army's UXO Safety Education Program is publicly available at www.denix.osd.mil/UXOSafety.

For additional information please contact J. C. King, Special Assistant for Munitions, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) at (703) 697-5564 or jc.king@us.army.mil.

First Army Celebrates Black History

Photos by Phil Manson, First Army Public Affairs Office

First Army's Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill congratulates Nia Williams. Nia won first place in the 1st First U.S. Army annual Black History Essay Contest. Mia is the daughter of Master Sgt. Sharon Williams who works in First Army's Personnel & Special Actions Division, G-1. Nia is a 5th grade student at Counterpane School in Fayetteville, Ga.



Lt. Col. Charles W. Dryden (USAR-Retired) of the famed Tuskegee Airmen was keynote speaker. On June 9, 1943, then Lieutenant Charles Dryden, in his P-40 nicknamed "A-Train," led a flight of six pilots engaging enemy fighter aircraft in aerial combat Over Pantelleria, Sicily. It was the first time in aviation history that black American pilots engaged aircraft in combat. He is a member of the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame. Dryden retired in 1962 with 4,000 hours flying time.

We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice.

Carter Woodson (1875-1950)
on founding Negro History Week, 1926



Jazmyne Lewis, right with mother Tracy Lewis, and Casey Seldon presented an interpretive dance during First U.S. Army's Black History Celebration Feb. 15 at the Getaway Club at Fort Gillem. Tracy Lewis, center, works in First Army's Command Surgeon's office.

THE DAILY JOURNAL, Fergus Falls, MN

Troops train for Iraq at Camp Shelby

Editor's note: The Daily Journal sent staff writer Kelley Gorman on assignment at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Miss., to visit Fergus Falls-area troops. He embedded with the unit as they trained for deployment to the Middle East. He ate, slept and worked alongside them, and wrote about the experience and the Soldiers there over the week.

By Kelley Gorman
Daily Journal

I walked down the steps from the small 36-passenger plane and the Mississippi winter embraced me like a warm Minnesota spring. First impression: favorable. It was about 75 degrees at the airport and it was almost too hot for long sleeves in the sun but for the nice cool breeze that keeps things perfect. It's the kind of weather that you can't help but enjoy. I wondered, though, if it is this warm in January, how hot does it get in July? I guess that makes this the ideal place to train for Iraq.

After a short delay at the airport, and another at the Camp Shelby North gate (media is supposed to enter the south gate), I found my way to the buildings normally occupied by the Minnesota National Guard's 2-136. But three-fourths of the soldiers are participating in field training exercises. The first taste of what I am in for came after a short briefing and I was told that I could participate in a security detail. My seat is next to the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Gregg Parks. We ride in the back of a Hummer in a convoy of five Hummers. Most, as will be the case in Iraq, have machine gunners poking through the top of the vehicles. Ours did not.

From the outside the trucks seemed enormous, and at 7,000 pounds, they are quite large. But inside they have stacks of radio equipment, weapons and random gear, including my baggage. The purpose for our trip was to not only practice driving in a convoy on dirt and paved roads, but to check up on radio operation posts. The convoy consisted of members of HQ company, basically Parks and his entourage. Practicing for the war zone, military vehicles never travel in groups smaller than three. Parks informed me that while we are out we may encounter a simulated ambush, battle wound or break down. Observer controllers, who are soldiers whose only purpose is to ready troops for the combat zone, decide when and where problems occur.

"They haven't given us anything yet," said Parks. "We're waiting for them."

F.O.B. - or forward operating base - is where I will be staying with the soldiers over the next five or so days. It is kind of a tent-city surrounded by barbed wire and guard posts and looks like it could be a scene right out of the Middle East. The dusty roads help in that department. It is to at F.O.B. where we ended up after about two hours of driving and checking up. The dust got everywhere and I had to hold the camera between my knees to keep the lens from getting coated in dirt. I was wearing the body armor and helmet they gave me upon arrival and I pulled the goggles sitting on my head down over my eyes so I didn't have to squint. At times I could hardly see the Hummer in front of us.

After a short stop with a scout unit we rolled up to a clearing that has large antennas sticking up in the middle of it. Parks got

out of the truck and talked with a sergeant who has taken it upon himself to better conceal the tall metal poles which are used to transfer communications from one point to another. Parks congratulated the soldiers present for taking the initiative to improve the security of valuable assets. In the Hummer once more, we occasionally got off the beaten path in order to avoid possible mines and to practice evasive maneuvering. Here and there are "villages" meant to teach the soldiers how to act around Iraqis and what danger signs to look for when coming in contact with non-military personnel. All suspect vehicles and mine sites are radioed in to base so teams can be sent to clear possible danger areas. Parks mentioned the Army has spent a lot of money setting the conditions in Camp Shelby to closely match those of Iraq. Local Mississippi residents have even been hired to act as villagers, terrorists and even truck drivers in need of an escort. The fact that HQ company basically exists to protect Parks is not lost on him. "It is humbling," he said. "They go through a lot of training to keep me alive." All areas of field training exercises and the preparatory training that the troops have been receiving at Camp Shelby is to ensure the easiest transition as possible to the actual battle front. Parks said the Army doesn't want the soldiers experiencing anything for the first time in Iraq - even casualties and funerals. The units practice how to handle remains of a fallen comrade, how to deal with the emotional strain of the loss, and even how to conduct a memorial service - a sobering touch to an already eventful afternoon. At the end of the day, it's not just a bunch of boys playing with very expensive toys: it is war.



The mission of Freedom Team Salute is to strengthen the Army community by honoring veterans for their service and dedication to the U.S. Army and by providing Soldiers – Active, Guard, and Reserve – the opportunity to recognize those who support them. Through a simple nomination process, FTS allows all Army veterans to receive an FTS Commendation package, and provides active duty,

Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers the opportunity to nominate their parents and spouses for a Commendation. Guard and Reserve Soldiers can also nominate their employers. FTS Commendations include a certificate of appreciation, personalized letter of thanks from the Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff, and an official U.S. Army pin.

All Soldiers can nominate their parents and spouses, and Guard and Reserve Soldiers can nominate their civilian employers. All Army veterans are also eligible, and anyone can nominate a veteran online at www.freedomteamsalute.army.mil.



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